GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4732
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2001
STORAGE PROBLEM DUE TO EXCESS PRODUCTION OF WHEAT AND RICE
PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether storage problem has arisen due to excess production of wheat and rice in the country;

(b) if so, the scheme of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether this excess production has caused loss to the farmers instead of profit;

(d) if so, whether this is due to change in or breaking of crop cycle;

(e) if so, the action the Government propose to take in this regard; and

(f) if not, the factors responsible for loss to the farmers despite excess production?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a): The storage problem can not be ascribed to a single reason like the excess production of wheat and rice. Even though huge procurement operations have been undertaken by Food Corporation of India (FCI), the storage problem has beeneffectively managed during the Rabi 2000-01 season.

(b): For the next Kharif season, the Government has advised FCI as well as the StateGovernments to create additional storage capacities. FCI`s target is to constructadditional storage capacity of 1.29 lakh MT during 2001-02. During this period, the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) will be constructing 2.00 lakh MT of storagecapacity. Further, steps have been taken to create additional capacity of 64.00 lakh MTon long-term basis through the State Governments, State Warehousing Corporations(SWCs), CWC, etc.

(c) to (f): The Government has taken several steps to protect the interests offarmers and these include fixation of minimum support prices of major agricultural commodities and procurement operations thereof, implementation of Market Intervention Scheme, etc.